

From: DeBona, Dave
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/2/02 12:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

The events of the past few years have brought to light many things, few of which have been earth shattering, enlightening or consumer friendly. So it was with great pleasure that I heard of the settlement. As a professional who deals with not only Microsoft but other industry players and as a "home user" I was thrilled to hear this action was coming to an end. I was also happy to hear that Microsoft as a company would not be "dismembered" as so many of Microsoft's competitors had hoped for.

I think this decision by the DOJ shows a committed and honest concern and fairness for both the consumers, Microsoft, and their competitors. The cost of this trial and the resultant ebb and flow in the economy has put more strain on the industry than those practices Microsoft had been accused of. The sad fact of the matter is that Microsoft dominates because there are few alternatives worth chasing. I liken this to grocery stores. There are often times 1, 2 or even 3 within a few miles of a home. However, usually only 1 place gets shopped consistently. The only time a change occurs is when one store has "better" products or better pricing, i.e. something compelling to make me change. Of course this is simplified, but to the average consumer, simple is understandable and desired.

It's sad to see companies such as Oracle, Sun, and especially AOL screaming about the practices and policies of Microsoft. Oracle has dominated the database world for a long time, their product has been somewhat slow to adopt new standards and upgrade performance. They consistently lose ground to Microsoft and IBM in this area. Sun has always dominated the Web server market, again, being somewhat slow to react and upgrade. They too face increased competition from many hardware vendors, due largely in part to Microsoft's NT operating systems and the performance/value proposition they provide. And AOL, I can't say much good about AOL, so I won't. Suffice it to say, they are certainly in the pot calling the kettle back category.

So as you can see, I'm very happy that this case is finally coming to an end and I thank the DOJ and the new administration for putting emphasis where it belongs. I would also urge the DOJ to do whatever it can to put an end to the other 9 states who possibly feel the need to file their own cases in light of not accepting this settlement. Those 9 states attorney general's should be ashamed of themselves. They play politics while spending their states money, not too mention pressuring Microsoft to continue spending legal dollars on this. Of course this will eventually translate into passed on cost to the consumer. But of course, the 9 states AG's don't seem to care about anything other than their own political interests.

I would very much appreciate information on where I can write these 9 states AG's.

Thank you for your Time.

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